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Rep. Peter Welch, D-Vt., was among the interrogators of BP CEO Tony Hayward during a hearing of a House Energy and Commerce subcommittee Thursday.

Welch, who led House efforts calling for BP to suspend its dividends distribution and establish an independent fund to pay for cleanup and compensation, took Hayward to task for his company's history of cutting corners and putting profits ahead of safety.

"Does a CEO who has presided over a company that's incurred \$370 million in fines; ... who's presided over almost \$100 billion in loss of shareholder value and the suspension of a \$10 billion annual dividend; whose lost the confidence of shareholders and regulators and most importantly the family and citizens of the Gulf; does that person enjoy the confidence necessary to continue acting as CEO or is it time for that CEO to resign?" Welch asked.

Hayward declined to answer the question, saying only that he was focused on BP's response to the leak.